

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04076 102248Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NIC-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 CU-04 AID-20 PC-04 OPR-02

OMB-01 DRC-01 /125 W

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P R 102149Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5454

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USIAC

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: POLICE OCCUPY TV CHANNEL 9

SUMMARY: UNIFORMED POLICE OCCUPIED CHANNEL 9 FACILITIES. STATION OFF AIR. COMPROMISE SOLUTION APPARENTLY REACHED BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF CHILE AND GOC.

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 6:00 PM SAT. (SEPT 8) CARABINERO CONTINGENT ENTERED CHANNEL 9 STUDIOS AND ASSUMED CONTROL OF FACILITY ACTING ON DIRECTIVE OF SAN-GO INTENDENTE JULIO STUARDO AND AUTHORIZED BY JUDICIAL ORDER. ACCORDING TO PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS, POLICE ORDERED TO REMOVE ALL PERSONNEL FROM STATION WITH EXCEPTION OF EDUARDO RUIZ, PRO-UNIDAD POPULAR VICE RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF CHILE EASTERN CAMPUS. RUIZ HAD INSTALLED HIS OFFICE AT CHANNEL 9 IN RECENT LAST DITCH ATTEMPT TO AVOID FORCEFUL OCCUPATION BY CLINGING TO UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY PRINCIPLE. IMMEDIATELY BEFORE POLICE ARRIVED, SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) DEPUTIES MARIO PALESTRO AND CARMEN LAZO FACED CAMERAS TO ANNOUNCE "TEMPORARY SETBACK." LAZO SAID PETITION WOULD BE MADE TO ALLENDE TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER "WORKERSCHANNEL." REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS OCCUPYING AND SUPPORTING GROUPS,

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 04076 102248Z

INCLUDING WORKERS AND CHANNEL 7 (NATIONAL NETWORK) EMPLOYEES, ALSO

MADE ON-CAMERA STATEMENTS CONDEMNING POLICE ACTION. FINALLY POLICE OFFICER LEADING RAID MADE STATEMENT EMPHASIZING LEGAL NATURE OF ACTION BEFORE TOOK STATION OFF AIR.

2. MONDAY MORNING "MERCURIO" CARRIES APPARENTLY TEXT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOC AND UNIVERSITY OF CHILE TELEVISION CORPORATION. DATED SEPT 9, ACCORD REPORTEDLY INCLUDES FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

A. CHANNEL 9 PHYSICAL FACILITY IS AT DISPOSITION OF COURT AND WILL HAVE POLICE PROTECTION. A LAWYER AND TECHNICIAN DESIGNATED BY GOC AND A SIMILAR TEAM APPOINTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE WILL CONDUCT AN INVENTORY OF EQUIPMENT TO DETERMINE STATE OF EQUIPMENT AND ITS PHYSICAL CONDITION.

B. BOTH GOC AND UNIVERSITY OF CHILE WILL NAME THREE MEMBERS FOR COMMISSION TO STUDY AND NEGOTIATE OVERALL AGREEMENT FOR TRANSFER OF SOME PARTS AND EQUIPMENT FROM CHANNEL 9 TO STATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (UTE) TELEVISION STATION, WHOSE RECTOR IS COMMUNIST. ARTICLE STIPULATES THIS NEGOTIATION SHOULD PROTECT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE'S CAPACITY TO OPERATE STATION, INCLUDING POSSIBLE EXTENSION TO PROVINCES AND AGREES TO UCHILE RESUMING USE OF RELAY STATION IN VALPARAISO.

C. GOVERNMENT AFFIRMS IT WILL ASSURE "FREE ACCESS TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE WHICH WILL PERMIT IMPORT OF SUFFICIENT EQUIPMENT TO SUBSTANTIALLY UPGRADE ITS (UNIVERSITY OF CHILE) INSTALLATIONS AND EXTEND TRANSMISSIONS TO THE PROVINCES." GOC ALSO AGREES TO ASSURE ACCESS TO INTERNAL CREDIT INSTITUTIONS FOR POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF FACILITIES TO PROVINCIAL CITIES.

D. GOC WILL PERMIT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE STATION USE OF TRANSMITTER ANTENNA TOWER ON SAN CRISTOBAL HILL OVERLOOKING SANTIAGO VITAL TO GOOD SIGNAL IN AREA. UNIVERSITY OF CHILE MAY SELECT EITHER CHANNEL 9 OR CHANNEL 6 FREQUENCY FOR ITS PERMANENT STATION. STATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY WILL OCCUPY REMAINING FREQUENCY OR ANY OTHER IT CHOOSES, WITHIN THE LAW.

COMMENT: EVEN THOUGH AGREEMENT SEEMS TO OFFER SOMETHING TO EVERYONE, SIGNIFICANCE IS IT COMES AT TIME CHARACTERIZED BY TENSION, VIOLENCE AND INCREASED POLARIZATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS AND GRANTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTIAGO 04076 102248Z

PERMISSION FOR UCHILE TV TO EXPAND TO PROVINCES. GOC-UNIVERSITY OF CHILE AGREEMENT ON CHANNEL 9 REPRESENTS FRUITION OF A PROCESS SEEMINGLY LOST IN CURRENT MONTHS. OPPOSITION, LED BY UNIVERSITY RECTOR BOENINGER, POINTED TO CHANNEL 9 PROBLEM AS EVIDENCE OF ILLEGALITY AND DISREGARD FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ON PART OF THE "UNIDAD POPULAR". MIR-ISTAS AND LEFTIST-EXTREMIST GROUPS SEIZED CHANNEL 9 TO DEMONSTRATE THE EFFICACY OF THEIR TACTICS AND LEGITIMACY OF THEIR PROGRAM. CHANNEL 9 BECAME ADOPTED SON OF

VIOLENT ELEMENT IN AND ON FRINGE OF RULING UP COALITION. GOC, WHILE ENJOYING RECTOR BOENINGER'S DISCOMFORT, WAS NEVER A WARM OFFICIAL SUPPORT OF CHANNEL 9 DISSIDENTS. IN SUMMARY, CHANNEL 9 CONFLICT WAS SYMBOLIC OF STRUGGLE TAKING PLACE IN CHILE ON ANOTHER PLANE. EVIDENCE INDICATES INTERIOR MINISTER BRIONES WAS PIVOTAL FIGURE IN COMPROMISE SOLUTION, POSSIBLY AIDED BY COMMUNIST PARTY. THUS POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION HAS BEEN MOMENTARILY DEFUSED THROUGH NEGOTIATION. FROM USIS POINT OF VIEW IF AGREEMENT STICKS WE WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL USER OUR MATERIALS.
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